their efficiency both in terms of fuel nnd electricity; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Drop-out rate of boys and girls

1906. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the problem of drop-out boys and girls in schools at primary, middle and secondary/higher secondary, levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise;

(c) the number of drop-out boys and girls in each category (State-wise) during each of the last three years and so far in 1995;

(d) the details of the Centrally sponsored programmes and the result-oricntcd and time-bound achievements made (State-wise) during each of the last three years and so far in 1995; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred in the implementation of each centrally sponsored scheme (State-wise) during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI): (a) to (c) The Government have examined the problem of drop outs from time to time. The State-wise details of drop outs for classes I—V, 1—VIII and I—X arc published in the Annual Reports of the Ministry.

(d) to (e) The details of the centrally sponsored schemes and the achievements are also available in the Annual Reports. The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education launched in August this year is intended to improve attendance at the primary level. The budget outlay for 1995-96 is Rs. 611.79 crores.

Underutilization of steel market

1907. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's steel market is under utilised at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some effective measures in this context to give big push in steel sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The level of steel consumption is related to the stage of economic and industrial development of a country. India is among the countries having low per capita consumption of steel. In the year 1992, the per capita apparent consumption of crude steel in India was about 22 kg. as against the world average of 143 kg.

(c) to (e) Government has taken a number of steps to increase the production of steel in the country. Modernisation and expansion of Public Sector Steel Plants has been taken up. Government has also adopted various policy measures to facilitate and encourage the creation of additional steel production capacity in the private sector. These include:

(i) Removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for the public sector;

(ii) Exemption of iron and steel industry from the provisions of compulsory licensing;